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Claims 1 and 14 have each been amended as indicated hereinabove to delete various words from the preamble in accordance with the Examiner's comments as discussed in greater detail below.

Claims 25 and 26 have been canceled.

Claims 1, 6, 14, and 25-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner indicates that the claims recite in the preamble an imaging apparatus but do not recite image forming means or components. The Examiner indicates further that the Applicant should either: 1) add limitations to the above claims to support the preamble; or, 2) change the preamble.

In regard to claim 6, that claim depends from claim 1. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the amendments to claim 1, as discussed above, also overcome the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 6 be withdrawn.

Application No. 10/719,960
Docket No. 10011454-3
Response to Final Action

1 14 overcomes the rejection of that claim under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph,
2 because the preamble no longer recites an "imaging" apparatus. Accordingly the
3 Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 14 be withdrawn.

4 In regard to claims 25 and 26, those claims have been canceled, and the
5 rejections of those claims are therefore moot.

6 In regard to claim 27, that claim has been amended as indicated herein above
7 to be in independent form and to include all the limitations of claim 25 from which
8 claim 27 previously depended. Additionally, the preamble of claim 27 recites "an
9 apparatus" in accordance with the Examiner's comments. Thus, the preamble of
10 claim 27 does not recite an "imaging" apparatus. The Applicant therefore believes
11 that the amendments to claim 27 overcome the rejection of that claim under 35
12 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, because the preamble of claim 27 does not recite an
13 "imaging" apparatus. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the
14 rejection of claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

15 In regard to claim 28, that claim depends from claim 27. Therefore, the
16 Applicant believes that the amendments to claim 27, as discussed above, also
17 overcome the rejection of claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.
18 Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 28
19 be withdrawn.

20 Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102:

21 Claims 25 and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being
22 anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,806,969 to Tomoyori et al.

23 Claims 25 and 26 have been canceled as indicated hereinabove.
24 Accordingly, the rejections of claims 25 and 26 are now moot.

25 Allowable Subject Matter:

26 The Examiner has indicated that claims 29-36 are allowed, and that claims 1,
27 6, 14, and 27-28 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35
28 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base
29 claim and any intervening claims.

30 As discussed above, claims 1, 14, and 27 have been amended to change the
31 preamble and/or to be in independent form and to include all the limitations of the

1 base claim and any intervening claims. As also discussed above, the Applicant
2 believes that the amendments to claims 1, 14, and 27 overcome the rejections of
3 claims 1, 6, 14, 27, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

4 The Applicant believes that claims 1, 6, 14, 27 and 28 are now in allowable
5 form, and that the amendments to the claims as indicated hereinabove place the
6 application in condition for allowance.

7 SUMMARY

8 The Applicant believes this response constitutes a full and complete reply to
9 the final action mailed 03/23/2005, and that the amendments to the claims shown
10 hereinabove are in compliance with CFR 1.116, wherein those amendments have
11 been made to cancel claims and/or to comply with requirements of form expressly
12 set forth in a previous office action. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests
13 that the amendments to the claims as shown hereinabove be entered.

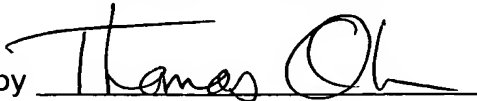
14 The Applicant further believes, for at least the reasons set forth above, that
15 claims 1, 6, 14, and 27-36 are in allowable form, and that the application is in
16 condition for allowance. Accordingly the Applicant respectfully requests timely
17 allowance of claims 1, 6, 14, and 27-36.

18 The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the below-signed attorney if
19 the Examiner believes this will facilitate prosecution toward allowance of the claims.

20 Respectfully submitted,

21 Laurent A. Regimbal

22 Date: May 18, 2005

23 by 

24 Thomas Olson

25 Attorney for Applicant

Reg. No. 44,271

(509) 327-4748